

REMARKS

The specification has been amended to make editorial changes therein.

The indication that claims 31-32 include patentable subject matter is acknowledged with thanks. In reliance thereon, the subject matter of claim 31 has been added to claim 6 to place the claims in condition for allowance.

Claims 6, 13, 19, 24, and 33 were rejected as unpatentable over HOBBS et al. 6,300,202¹ in view of CHRISTENSON et al. 6,835,667. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are respectfully requested in view of the present amendment that goes to patent with the allowable subject matter.

New claims 34-42 have been added and are believed to be allowable over the art of record.

Claim 34 is similar to amended claim 6 except the last step is deleted.

Claim 40 is similar to original claims 6 and 33. CHRISTENSON et al. only teach that an organic mixture including HF and IPA is used when the high-k film is selectively etched. As described in the Official Action, the reason for using IPA is "this aids in the reduction of HF used in order to etch High-K dielectric". This means that CHRISTENSON et al. do not intend to use IPA for protecting the surface of the substrate. CHRISTENSON et al. do not teach the step of rinsing the surface of the

¹ The Official Action refers to HUGO et al., but uses the patent number for HOBBS et al. The filing date provided in the Official Action does not match HOBBS et al. Clarification is respectfully requested.

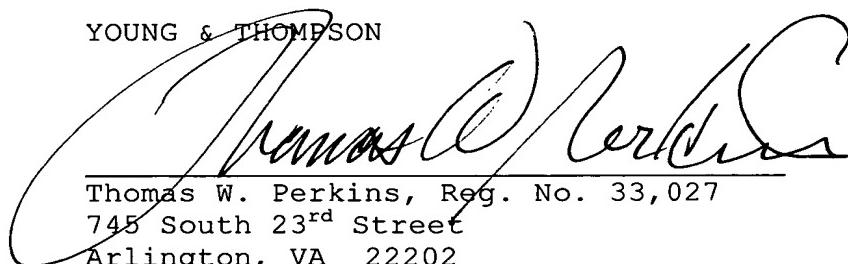
semiconductor substrate with an organic solvent after selectively removing the insulating film via a wet etching with a chemical solution containing an organic solvent as a main component and a fluoride-containing compound.

In view of the present amendment and the foregoing remarks, it is believed that the present application has been placed in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 25-0120 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17.

Respectfully submitted,

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